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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 6 March 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a note dated 24 February 1995 from the Working Group consisting of members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference contributing troops to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina, concerning the future of UNPROFOR and additional measures to enhance its effectiveness.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the Organization of
the Islamic Conference Contact Group

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Annex

[Original: English]

Note dated 24 February 1995 from the Working Group consisting of members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference contributing troops to the United Nations Protection Force and members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina

We, the undersigned, who are members of the Working Group that consists of the OIC members contributing troops to UNPROFOR and the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina, have contributed the following ideas as a diplomatic perspective on the future of UNPROFOR and as additional measures to enhance its effectiveness in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We welcome the meeting of the Chiefs of Staff of troop-contributing States, UNPROFOR and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held in The Hague on 19 and 20 December 1994 and thank the Government of the Netherlands for its able hosting of this important meeting,

Being aware that the Hague meetings addressed general military considerations for the operation of UNPROFOR and believing that a continuing evaluation is desirable to provoke also a more forward-looking analysis not necessarily constrained by the lowest common denominator,

We, the undersigned,

1. Commend the courageous efforts of the brave men and women serving within UNPROFOR and other United Nations-mandated organizations in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

2. Believe that UNPROFOR still can contribute to improving the humanitarian situation, to deterring human rights abuses and attacks upon civilians, and to enhancing the environment for a durable peace settlement based on the acceptance of the five-nation contact group peace plan;

3. Also believe that the current mandate leaves substantial room for a more assertive and effective mission by UNPROFOR and relevant regional organizations, especially bearing in mind Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, although there could be potential enhancement of the existing Security Council mandate of UNPROFOR;

4. Express concern that, although UNPROFOR has accomplished much in its mission, certain events have contributed to a rapid erosion in UNPROFOR's capacity to execute its mandates effectively;

5. Further believe that, in order to reverse this erosion and best avoid a termination of this mission, a greater political resolve must be captured, simultaneously, both in the search for a political settlement and in the

capacity of UNPROFOR and relevant regional organizations to execute their current mandate;

6. Support resolute protection of the "safe areas" in accordance with Security Council resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993) and remain open to options to strengthen their implementation and the defence of the safe areas;

7. Reiterate the urgent necessity of defining the boundaries of the safe areas in a manner consistent with Security Council resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993), while taking into account the recommendations of UNPROFOR;

8. Favour the establishment of a secure land corridor from Split to Sarajevo;

9. Also favour urgent opening of Tuzla airport for more efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance;

10. Following the exclusion zone practice in Sarajevo, emphasize the need to have all Serbian anti-aircraft systems removed or neutralized as these can only be directed at UNPROFOR and NATO and hold the view that, otherwise, UNPROFOR and NATO will lose control of the skies, face increasing dangers to their operations, and suffer significant erosion to their military and political influence over the situation. (The current mandate would allow UNPROFOR/NATO to issue an ultimatum for the anti-aircraft systems to be removed, or for the necessary measures to neutralize their weapons.);

11. Welcome the recent pledges of troops and equipment to UNPROFOR to enhance its capacity to better defend itself and execute its mandates;

12. Encourage the Member States to remain prepared to provide additional troops and equipment to UNPROFOR if the necessity arises;

13. In the event that cease-fire does not hold, believe that UNPROFOR and NATO would be better served by relying upon "judicious" use of force rather than the strict reliance upon "proportionality". This would be more effective in deterrence and in complementing UNPROFOR's and NATO's execution of their mandate;

14. Endorse the "dual-key" concept with the UNPROFOR "key" to be placed at the discretion of the local commander who is in the best position to evaluate the needs and urgency of the situation;

15. Fully support the five-nation contact group peace plan as delivered to the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the Bosnian Serbs on a "take-it-or-leave-it" basis, commend the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Croats for having accepted the plan, and demand that the Bosnian Serbs do likewise without further delay.

The latter considerations are some ideas that should be evaluated as part of a regular analysis of how to improve the efficiency and security of United Nations-mandated operations in executing their missions. In this context, we commend the initiative of the Hague meeting and encourage such efforts on a more regular basis as needed.

We, the undersigned, strongly emphasize the above-mentioned considerations for further evaluation as part of a progressive and forward-looking means to enhance UNPROFOR's effectiveness and security.

We request that the content of this letter be taken into consideration as an additional point of reference, with broad support, like the report of the Hague meeting under reference.

We would be grateful if you could have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 39 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Ahmed SNOUSSI
Permanent Representative of Morocco
to the United Nations
Chairman of the OIC Contact Group
on Bosnia and Herzegovina

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Reaz RAHMAN
Permanent Representative of Bangladesh
to the United Nations

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Nabil A. ELARABY
Permanent Representative of Egypt
to the United Nations

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Nugroho WISNUMURTI
Permanent Representative of Indonesia
to the United Nations

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Kamal KHARRAZI
Permanent Representative of the
Islamic Republic of Iran to the
United Nations

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Adnan S. ABU ODEH
Permanent Representative of Jordan
to the United Nations

(Signed) H.E. Mr. RAZALI Ismail
Permanent Representative of Malaysia
to the United Nations

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Permanent Representative of Pakistan
to the United Nations

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Gaafar M. ALLAGANY
Acting Permanent Representative of
Saudi Arabia to the United Nations

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Keba Birane CISSE
Permanent Representative of Senegal
to the United Nations

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Inal BATU
Permanent Representative of Turkey
to the United Nations